

## Claims

### What is claimed is:

1. A network file system for document images comprising:
  - identification means adapted for securing identification information representative of an identity of a user;
  - means adapted for receiving data representative of a user request to open a selected data storage area;
  - security input means adapted for receiving from the user security information associated with a selected data storage operation;
  - allocation means adapted for allocating data storage associated with the selected data storage location;
  - means adapted for storing the identification information and the security information associatively with the selected data storage location;
  - means adapted for receiving document data representative of a document image;
  - means adapted for storing received document data into the selected data storage location;
  - means adapted for receiving information signaling completion of a data storage operation; and
  - means adapted for restricting access to the selected data storage location upon receipt of the information signaling completion of the data storage operation.
2. The network file system of claim 1, further comprising:
  - login means adapted for receiving from the user a request for access to the data storage location when access has been restricted thereto, the login means including means adapted for acquiring the identification information and the security information;
  - testing means adapted for testing the identification information and the security information against stored security information; and

means adapted for unrestricting the selected data storage in accordance with an output of the testing means.

3. The network file system of claim 2, further comprising:

means adapted for receiving data representative of a user request to open at least one additional data storage location;

wherein the allocation means includes means adapted for allocating data storage associated with the at least one additional data storage area;

wherein the security input means includes means adapted for receiving security information associated with the at least one additional data storage area;

wherein the means adapted for storing the identification information includes means adapted for storing security information associated with the at least one additional data storage area;

wherein the means adapted for storing the identification information and the security information includes means adapted for storing information associated with the at least one additional data storage area associatively with the at least one data storage area;

means adapted for receiving routing data representative as into which data storage area document data is to be routed; and

means adapted for routing received document data into a selected data storage location in accordance with the routing data.

4. The network file system of claim 3, wherein each data storage location has unique security information associated therewith.

5. The network file system of claim 3, wherein each data storage location has common security information associated therewith, wherein each of a plurality of data storage locations are accessible by a user during a single session.

6. The network file system of claim 3, wherein the means adapted for receiving document data includes means adapted for receiving document data from at least one of an associated scanner, facsimile, local area network and wide area network.

7. A method for storing document images in a network file system comprising:

- securing identification information representative of an identity of a user;
- receiving data representative of a user request to open a selected data storage area;
- receiving from the user security information associated with a selected data storage operation;
- allocating data storage associated with the selected data storage location;
- storing the identification information and the security information associatively with the selected data storage location;
- receiving document data representative of a document image;
- storing the received document data into the selected data storage location;
- receiving information signaling completion of a data storage operation; and
- restricting access to the selected data storage location upon receipt of the information signaling completion of the data storage operation.

8. The method of claim 7, further comprising:

- receiving from the user a request for access to the data storage location when access has been restricted thereto;
- acquiring the identification information and the security information;
- testing the identification information and the security information against stored security information; and
- unrestricting the selected data storage in accordance with an output of the testing.

9. The method of claim 8, further comprising:

- receiving data representative of a user request to open at least one additional data storage location;
- allocating data storage associated with the at least one additional data storage area;

receiving security information associated with the at least one additional data storage area;

storing security information associated with the at least one additional data storage area;

storing information associated with the at least one additional data storage area associatively with the at least one data storage area;

receiving routing data representative as into which data storage area document data is to be routed; and

routing received document data into a selected data storage location in accordance with the routing data.

10. The method of claim 8, wherein each data storage location has unique security information associated therewith.

11. The method of claim 8, wherein each data storage location has common security information associated therewith, wherein each of a plurality of data storage locations are accessible by a user during a single session.

12. The method of claim 8, wherein the received document data is received from at least one of an associated scanner, facsimile, local area network and wide area network.

13. A computer readable medium of instructions for storing document images in a network file system comprising:

identification means adapted for securing identification information representative of an identity of a user;

means adapted for receiving data representative of a user request to open a selected data storage area;

security input means adapted for receiving from the user security information associated with a selected data storage operation;

allocation means adapted for allocating data storage associated with the selected data storage location;

means adapted for storing the identification information and the security information associatively with the selected data storage location;

means adapted for receiving document data representative of a document image;

means adapted for storing received document data into the selected data storage location;

means adapted for receiving information signaling completion of a data storage operation; and

means adapted for restricting access to the selected data storage location upon receipt of the information signaling completion of the data storage operation.

14. The computer readable medium of claim 13, further comprising:

login means adapted for receiving from the user a request for access to the data storage location when access has been restricted thereto, the login means including means adapted for acquiring the identification information and the security information;

testing means adapted for testing the identification information and the security information against stored security information; and

means adapted for unrestricting the selected data storage in accordance with an output of the testing means.

15. The computer readable medium of claim 14, further comprising:

means adapted for receiving data representative of a user request to open at least one additional data storage location;

wherein the allocation means includes means adapted for allocating data storage associated with the at least one additional data storage area;

wherein the security input means includes means adapted for receiving security information associated with the at least one additional data storage area;

wherein the means adapted for storing the identification information includes means adapted for storing security information associated with the at least one additional data storage area;

wherein the means adapted for storing the identification information and the security information includes means adapted for storing information associated with the at least one additional data storage area associatively with the at least one data storage area;

means adapted for receiving routing data representative as into which data storage area document data is to be routed; and

means adapted for routing received document data into a selected data storage location in accordance with the routing data.

16. The computer readable medium of claim 15, wherein each data storage location has unique security information associated therewith.

17. The computer readable medium of claim 15, wherein each data storage location has common security information associated therewith, wherein each of a plurality of data storage locations are accessible by a user during a single session.

18. The computer readable medium of claim 15, wherein the means adapted for receiving document data includes means adapted for receiving document data from at least one of an associated scanner, facsimile, local area network and wide area network.

19. A computer-implemented method for storing document images in a network file system comprising:

securing identification information representative of an identity of a user;  
receiving data representative of a user request to open a selected data storage area;  
receiving from the user security information associated with a selected data storage operation;  
allocating data storage associated with the selected data storage location;  
storing the identification information and the security information associatively with the selected data storage location;  
receiving document data representative of a document image;  
storing the received document data into the selected data storage location;

receiving information signaling completion of a data storage operation; and  
restricting access to the selected data storage location upon receipt of the  
information signaling completion of the data storage operation.

20. The method of claim 19, further comprising:  
receiving from the user a request for access to the data storage location when  
access has been restricted thereto;  
acquiring the identification information and the security information;  
testing the identification information and the security information against stored  
security information; and  
unrestricting the selected data storage in accordance with an output of the testing.

21. The method of claim 20, further comprising:  
receiving data representative of a user request to open at least one additional data  
storage location;  
allocating data storage associated with the at least one additional data storage area;  
receiving security information associated with the at least one additional data  
storage area;  
storing security information associated with the at least one additional data  
storage area;  
storing information associated with the at least one additional data storage area  
associatively with the at least one data storage area;  
receiving routing data representative as into which data storage area document  
data is to be routed; and  
routing received document data into a selected data storage location in accordance  
with the routing data.

22. The method of claim 21, wherein each data storage location has unique  
security information associated therewith.

23. The method of claim 21, wherein each data storage location has common security information associated therewith, wherein each of a plurality of data storage locations are accessible by a user during a single session.

24. The method of claim 21, wherein the received document data is received from at least one of an associated scanner, facsimile, local area network and wide area network.